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20 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Bunker's 12th Weekly (Saigon 1409, [] 19 July 1967)

1. Bunker opens with nine paragraphs on the complex political scene, reviewing the bidding on the developments of the past 72 hours. These paragraphs are probably worth your skimming. You can skip the rest of the cable. The Saigon political hand is not yet played out and though we have successfully negotiated a very serious potential crisis where the generals were really thinking about pulling a coup, we are far from out of the woods. The political scene is going to require most careful attention over the next few weeks.
2. In his opening section Bunker goes on to discuss a recent ARVN engagement in which elements of the 5th ARVN Division performed very well (para 10), and the Marcos visit (paras 11 and 12).
3. In his political section Bunker adds a few details about the Assembly's deliberations on Presidential slates (paras 13-16), reports on his private discussions with Thieu and Ky and his public speech to the Vietnamese Journalists Association about the importance the United States attaches to free and fair elections (paras 17-18), and briefly discusses the Senate lists (para 19).
4. Bunker then goes on to talk about the situation in I Corps (paras 20-21), economic statistics (para 22), Chieu Hoi figures, which are running well ahead of last year's returnee rate (para 23), and casualty statistics (para 24).

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Attachment

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